## Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8099

**UNCLAS MEXICO 7160** 

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN, SPOP, MX

SUBJECT: NEW GENERAL LAW ON POPULATION SUBMITTED TO MEXICAN

**CONGRESS** 

REF: MEXICO A-471, SEPTEMBER 13, 1973

- 1. GOM PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA, AS PROMISED IN HIS INFORME ON SEPTEMBER 1, 1973 (SEE REF), SENT THE DRAFT OF NEW GENERAL LAW ON POPULATION TO THE MEXICAN CONGRESS ON SEPTEMBER 12, 1973. HIS ACCOMPANYING MESSAGE REITERATED DEMOGRAPHIC STATISTICS, SAYING ADDITIONALLY "IT IS NECESSARY TO REDESIGN AND ACCELERATE OUR DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY, INCORPORATING AN AUTHENTIC DEMOGRAPHIC POLICY THAT WOULD TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE SIZE, STRUCTURE, DYNAMICS AND DISTRIBUTION OF THE POPULATION AND THAT WOULD INCLUDE FAMILY PLANNING." THE PROPOSED LAW ALSO INCLUDES LENGTHY SECTIONS RELATED TO INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL MIGRATION, THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A POPULATION REGISTRY AND PERSONAL IDENTIFICATION CARDS, AND RELATED PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS. COPY OF DRAFT BEING FORWARDED TO ARA/MEX.
- 2. ONLY THE FIRST OF SEVEN CHAPTERS (CONTAINING THE FIRST SIX OF A TOTAL OF 123 ARTICLES) OF THE PROPOSED LAW CONCERNS GOM FAMILY PLANNING POLICY. THE MINISTRY OF GOBERNACION (INTERIOR) IS ASSIGNED RESPONSIBILITY FOR GOM ACTIONS TO RESOLVE NATIONAL DEMOGRAPHIC PROBLEMS. A NATIONAL POPULATION COUNCIL COMPOSED UNCLASSIFIED

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OF REPRESENTATIVES OF RELEVANT GOM MINISTRIES AND CHAIRED

BY GOVERNACION IS PROPOSED TO ASSURE COORDINATED ACTIVITIES. SPECIFICS FOLLOW.

- 3. ARTICLE ONE STATES THE OBJECTIVES OF THE PROPOSED LAW AS REGULATING POPULATION TO ASSURE A JUST DISTRIBUTION OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL BENEFITS. ARTICLE TWO FIXES THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE DIRECTION, PROMOTION, AND COORDINATION OF NATIONAL DEMOGRAPHIC POLICY WITH GOBERNACION.
- 4. ARTICLE THREE SPELLS OUT THIRTEEN SPECIFIC GOM
  ACTIVITIES FOR WHICH GOBERNACION HAS DIRECTIONAL AND IMPLEMENTAL
  RESPONSIBILITY (OR, WHERE APPROPRIATE, FOR ENSURING IMPLEMENTATION
  BY OTHER PARTS OF THE GOM). AMONG THESE ARE: (A) RELATING
  ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PROGRAMS TO THE SIZE, STRUCTURE, DYNAMICS
  AND DISTRIBUTION OF THE POPULATION: (B) IMPLEMENTING PUBLIC
  FAMILY PLANNING PROGRAMS THROUGH PUBLIC HEALTH AND EDUCATIONAL
  SERVICES, AND ASSURING THAT BOTH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE PROGRAMS
  ARE CARRIED OUT IN ACCORDANCE WITH "INDIVIDUAL LIBERTY AND PRESERVATION OF FAMILY DIGNITY, IN ORDER TO RATIONALLY REGULATE AND STABILIZE
  POPULATION GROWTH AS WELL AS TO ACHIEVE A BETTER USE OF
  NATONAL HUMAN AND NATURAL RESOURCES"; AND (C) INFLUENCING
  POPULATION DYNAMICS THROUGH EDUCATION, PUBLIC HEALTH, PROFESSIONAL
  AND TECHNICAL TRAINING, AND INFANT CARE, AND OBTAINING THE
  PARTICIPATION OF THOSE CONCERNED IN RESOLVING THESE PROBLEMS.
- 5. ARTICLE FOUR REAFIRMS THAT THE ACTIVITIES OF ARTICLE THREE MAY BE CARRIED OUT BY DIFFERENT BODIES OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH AND THE PUBLIC SECTOR IN ACCORDANCE WITH EXISTING LAW, BUT THAT THE MINISTRY OF GOVERNACION ALONE WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR JOINT PROJECTS, PROGRAM COORDINATION, AND DEFINITION OF STANDARDS.
- 6. THE FIFTH AND SIXTH ARTICLES WOULD CREATE A NATIONAL POPULATION COUNCIL CHAIRED BY A RESPRESENTATIVE FROM GOBERNACION, WITH FURTHER REPRESENTATION FROM THE MINISTRIES OF EDUCATION, HEALTH, TREASURY, LABOR, THE PRESIDENCY AND AGRICULTURE. THE COUNCIL WOULD BE IN CHARGE OF NATIONAL DEMOGRAPHIC PLANNING, AND WOULD INCLUDE REPRESENTATIVES OF OTHER GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS, AS APPROPRIATE. IT WOULD ALSO DRAW ON THE SERVICES OF TECHNICAL CONSULTANTS AND DEVELOPMENTAL AND DEMOGRAPHIC SPECIALISTS. UNCLASSIFIED

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7. THE PROPOSED LAW WOULD ABROGATE THE GENERAL LAW ON POPULATION OF DECEMBER 23, 1946, AS AMENDED, AND THE CONFLICTING SECTIONS OF THE GENERAL LAW ON POPULATION OF APRIL 27, 1962. OTHER SECTIONS OF THE PROPOSED LAW WILL BE REPORTED ON SEPARATELY. DEAN

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